

A STRETCH TOO FAR

he asks me what he should do
about it

he really doesn't listen
to what i'm saying
having gotten his question
up and out to another
ear is enough
he drums his fingertips
on the table as if
it were a piano
fingers spread wide
straining to cover
as many of the keys
as possible

the guy i work with
is having problems
woman problems
his old lady has kicked him out
& he's moved in with another
who his old lady calls
& now he's out of there too
on the street
no car
no money
no woman
just this job
& his music maybe
even his piano will go
soon

yes yes i say
i don't know
i tell him that i've given up
trying to figure the woman thing
that even when i see it
i'll still believe it
can be done
try to make it work
like an easy shot on the 8-ball
not wanting to realize
that even with a four finger bridge
it's a stretch too far